the broker have been attached by the Custodian.

(d) and (e) As the matter is pending in the Special Court, no specific time frame can be indicated by the SBI for recovery of the amount.

Constitution of Study Group to Consider Backwardness of Taluka Instead of district for sanctioning of Tax Hodliday

1087. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a study group to examine the feasibility of the proposal received from Government of Gujarat for reconsideration of the backwardness of taluka instead of district as a whole, as parameter for sanctioning of tax holiday under Section 81 (a) of the Income Tax Act, 1961;

(b) if so, whether the report of the study group has been received and considered by Government; and

(c) if so, the findings of the study group and the decision taken by Government in declaring the backwardness of taluka instead of district as a whole for income tax purpose in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A study group was constituted in the Ministry of Finance for identification of industrially backward districts for the purpose of granting 100% tax holiday under Section 80-IA of the Income-Tax Act. A number of states including Gujarat had suggested that instead of district, 'Taluka' or 'Tehsil' should be treated as the base unit for notification under Section 80-IA. To examine this issue in addition to some other points, a review study group was constituted in the Ministry of Finance, The review study group has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government.

Performance of Public Sector Banks in Bihar

1088. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of each of the public sector banks in the matter of their deposits, loan distribution etc. during the last three years in Bihar; and

(b) the target fixed and loans granted in agricultural and industrial sectors and also under self employment scheme by each of the banks during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Aggregate deposits and gross bank credit of public sector banks for the last three years in Bihar as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the Annexure [*See Appendix 180, Annexure, 22*]

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Sale of good seized by Customs Department

1089. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons have been permitted to sell confiscated goods seized by officials of Customs Department; and

(b) the norms prescribed for giving such permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Confiscated goods are disposed by Customs Department by retail sale, auction and through NCCF and Consumer Cooperative Societies. Ordinarily resale of confiscated goods does not require permission from the Customs Department.

Newsitem regarding forged drafts

1090. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Racket in forged draft unearthed" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 25.12.96;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government have seen the newsitem referred